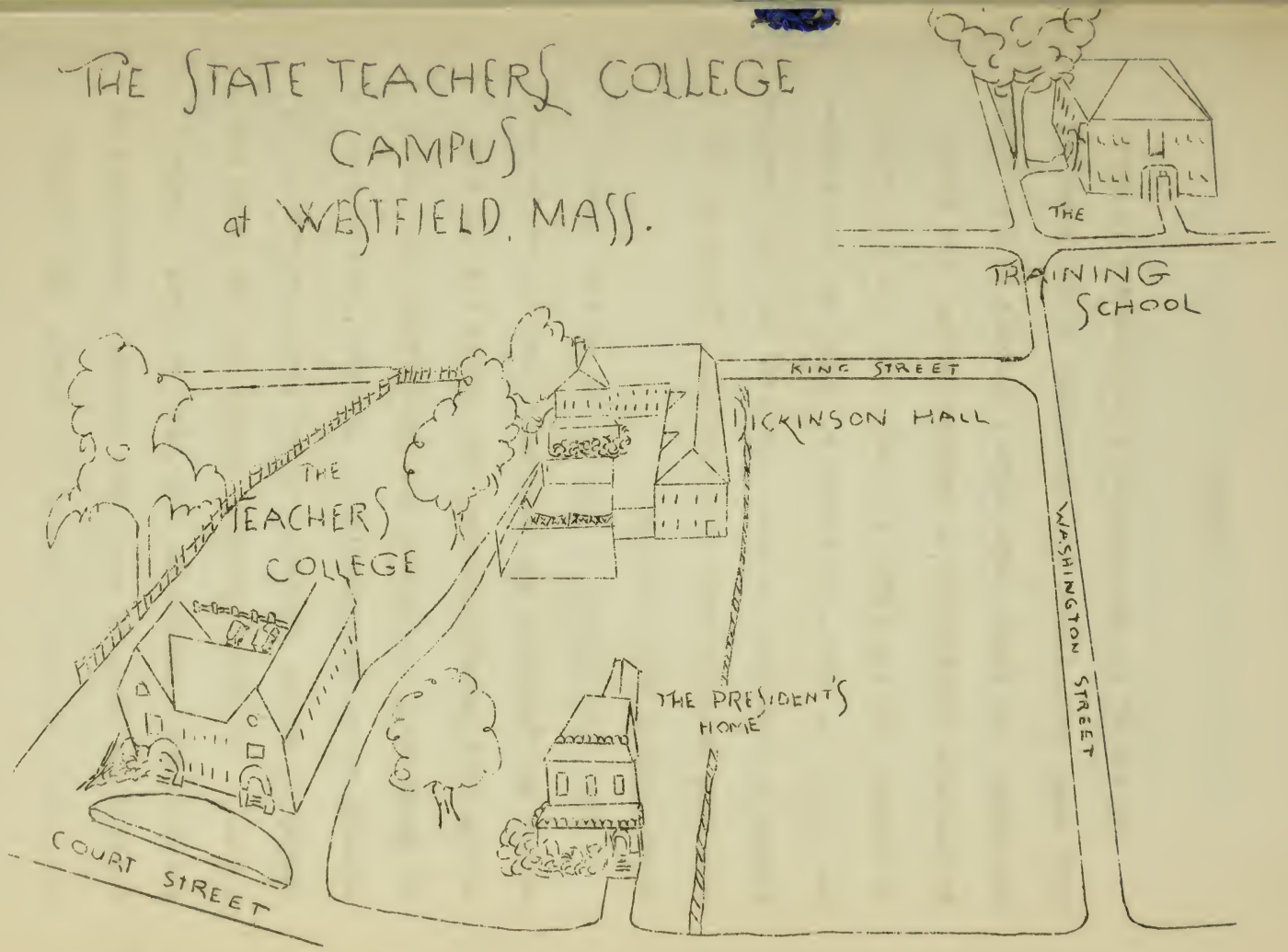
WESTFIELD STATE
TEACHERS COLLEGE

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS at WESTFIELD, MASS.



HISTORY

By act of the Massachusetts Legislature in April 1837 when Horace Mann was Secretary of the Board of Education, the first three normal schools in the United States were established in Massachusetts. The second of these, but the first to admit both men and women, was opened in Barre, September 4, 1839, and was transferred to Westfield in 1844, where at its first session with Rev. Emerson Davis as principal, 23 men and 26 women applied for admission.

From the beginning the design of the normal school was "strictly professional; that is, to prepare in the best possible manner, the pupils for the work of organizing, governing and instructing the public schools of the Commonwealth". At first, the minimum length of course consisted of two terms, approximately a year. By 1864 a general course of two years was established. Although, from time to time, longer courses and advanced work were offered, depending upon the needs of the schools of the state, the minimum

course of two years leading to a dipoloma continued until 1928 when a third year was added. In 1931 a fourth year was added for those students planning to teach in junior high schools, and by 1934 a four-year course, leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education, had become established. In 1932, by legislative enactment, the normal schools of the state became teachers colleges.

Until 1912 men as well as women had been students at the Westfield Normal School; since then only women had attended until the fall of 1938 when once again admission was open to men. This year also marked another change. Hitherto the subject matter courses and the courses in method had been held concurrently from entrance to graduation, but a change was made in the curriculum so that the first two years were devoted to academic or pre-professional work, and the last two years to professional preparation.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

In order that a teacher may be an understanding guide to the youth of today it is necessary to have a broad fundamental knowledge in many fields. With this objective clearly in mind the State Teachers College at Westfield takes its students on a two year pre-professional excursion into the fields of knowledge which constitute our cultural heritage and present environment. The attempt is to broaden the background and interest, extend the experiences and assist students to observe, classify and reason. This is accomplished by survey courses equally divided between the sciences and the humanities. A balanced program of physical activities is provided throughout the college course.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Students enter professional training in the Junior year. The fundamental principles of teaching are learned through courses in observation and in

courses in general methods and educational psychology. Practice-teaching begins in the second semester of the junior year and continues through the first semester of the senior year. The Training School serves as a laboratory in which students, with assistance and supervision, put into practice in actual classroom situations the theories gained through parallel courses in methods in the various subjects of the curriculum.

Orientation is emphasized in the junior year to enable students, with guidance, to discover the types of teaching for which they are best adapted. During the senior semester of practice-teaching, students concentrate in the fields in which they have demonstrated the greatest aptitude. Courses in history and principles of education, tests and measurements, school law, management and ethics, junior high school organization, remedial work, and visual education are included in the junior and senior years. With provision for the integration of

theory and practice, the entire program is designed to afford a well-rounded background and an adequate training for the teaching profession.

Westfield prepares students for teaching in the two main fields of the elementary and junior high school divisions. In the junior high school field the student elects two areas from among those offered-science, mathematics, English, and the social studies-and by advanced courses and a study of special techniques prepares for teaching in these fields.

PLACEMENT

Most of the graduates of the State Teachers College at Westfield find teaching positions in the western part of the state, but a recent survey showed Westfield graduates teaching from Maine to Florida. The proportion of Westfield teachers placed has been among the highest in the state for the past several years.

The initial salaries received compare favorably with those received either by others entering the teaching profession or by beginners in other fields.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The college believes that the full development of a college student is reached not only through a super-imposed curriculum, but also through activities of a social, recreational, and athletic nature which originate in the initiative of the students themselves. Under the leadership of their Student Council with assistance from faculty advisors a variety of activties is undertaken by the students.

Included among them are the Arts and Crafts Club, Glee Club, Golden Key Club which is the literary organization, Science Club, the International Relations Club, the Dramatic Club, and the Men's and Women's Athletic Associations. In addition to the activities of the regular meetings the clubs contribute to a balanced social program for the year by presenting

programs for all-college participation. The Dramatic Club produces an annual play with Springfield College; the Glee Club joins with a Massachusetts State College Glee Club in giving a concert; the Art Club's Fashion Show announces the arrival of spring; and the whole college joins in the production of a cycle of plays for the Christmas Festival. Other social activities include formal and informal dances, Junior-Freshmen and Sophomore-Senior Luncheons, the Get-Acquainted Party, the Hallowe'en Fair, and numerous informal teas. The college yearbook, The Tekoa, is edited by a representative student staff. The annual Fine Arts Series brings evening concerts, lectures and dramatic performances for the benefit of the entire community.

The campus is utilized most completely for recreational activities. Two tennis courts, a volley ball court, field hockey ground, a baseball diamond for indoor type baseball, archery range and horseshoe pits provide numerous opportunities for outdoor activities.

Fireplaces provide centers for all-college picnics and sings.

The students run two cooperative endeavors. The College Bookstore provides at a considerable discount all books needed by the students. The resident students living in Dickinson Hall manage a cooperative dining hall which has reduced the cost of living in the dormitory to the minimum.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for admission to the Massachusetts State Teachers College are described in a bulletin of information published by the State Department of Education and available at the College office.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

In addition to sound scholarship and the ability to use the professional knowledge of the science of teaching there are important personality traits which the potential teacher should possess. It is these

qualities which lead some people to say "teachers are born, not made". The professionally desirable person is one who is an approachable and understanding guide, whose broad enthusiasm for living is imparted to all who come in contact with him, whose integrity is an inspiration. Social competence is of great significance and sturdy physical vitality of paramount importance. Serious consideration should be given to the traits one possesses before selecting teaching as a profession.

COLLEGE SONG

Westfield! Alma Mater,
We salute and honor thee.
Thy loved name instills in us
Thoughts of hope and victory.
Through the years that are before us
May we keep within our hearts
Memories inspirational
That thy name imparts.
Westfield, we are loyal to thee,
Westfield! Alma Mater.

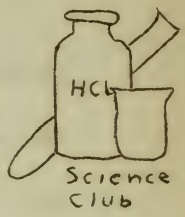
M. Ruth Reavey

(Music written by Louise R. Hagen)

After Class

IRC

Dramatic Club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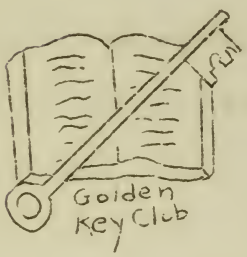
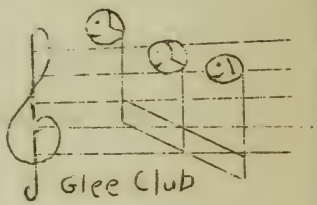
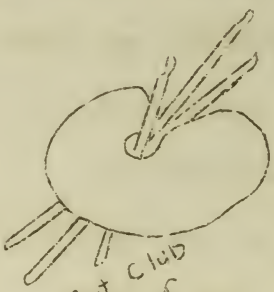
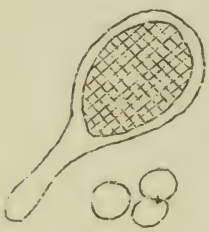
Science Club

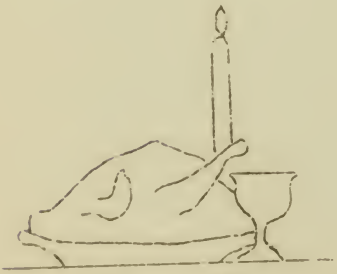

Golden Key Club


Glee Club


Art Club



Sports


Banquets

Proms

Fine Arts Series